This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-3. (cancelled).

4. (currently amended) A method of annealing a magnetic amorphous alloy article comprising the steps of:

(a) providing an unannealed amorphous alloy article having an alloy composition and a longitudinal axis;

(b) disposing said unannealed amorphous alloy article in a zone of elevated temperature while subjecting said amorphous alloy to a tensile force along said longitudinal axis to produce an annealed article; and

(c) selecting said alloy composition to comprise at least iron and nickel and at least one element from the group consisting of Groups Vb and VIb of the periodic table so that the annealed article has an induced magnetic easy plane perpendicular to said longitudinal axis due to said tensile stress,

the method further ~~.A method as claimed in claim 1~~ comprising applying a magnetic field to said amorphous alloy article in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis during step (b).

5. (original) A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein said amorphous alloy article has an article plane and comprising applying said magnetic field with a magnitude of at least 2 kOe and a significant component perpendicular to the article plane.

6. (cancelled).

7. (currently amended) A method of annealing a magnetic amorphous alloy article comprising the steps of:

(a) providing an unannealed amorphous alloy article having an alloy composition and a longitudinal axis;

(b) disposing said unannealed amorphous alloy article in a zone of elevated temperature while subjecting said amorphous alloy to a tensile force along said longitudinal axis to produce an annealed article; and

(c) selecting said alloy composition to comprise [as claimed in claim 1 wherein step (c) comprises selecting said amorphous alloy composition as] $Fe_aCo_bNi_cM_dCu_eSi_xB_yZ_z$, wherein a, b, c, d, e, x, y and z are in at%, M is at least one element from the group consisting of Mo, Nb, Ta, Cr and V, and Z is at least one element from the group consisting of C, P and Ge, and wherein *a* is between about 20 and about 50, *b* is less than or equal to about 4, *c* is between about 30 and about 60, *d* is between about 1 and about 5, *e* is between about 0 and about 2, *x* is between about 0 and about 4, *y* is between about 10 and about 20, *z* is between about 0 and about 3, and d+x+y+z is between about 14 and about 25, and a+b+c+d+e+x+y+z = 100 so that the annealed article has an induced magnetic easy plane perpendicular to said longitudinal axis due to said tensile stress.

8. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim [1] 7 wherein step (c) comprises selecting said amorphous alloy composition as $Fe_aCo_bNi_cM_dCu_eSi_xB_yZ_z$, wherein a, b, c, d, e, x, y and z are in at%, wherein M is at least one element from the group consisting of Mo, Nb, and Ta, and Z is at least one element from the group

consisting of C, P and Ge, and wherein *a* is between about 30 and about 45, *b* is less than or equal to about 3, *c* is between about 30 and about 55, *d* is between about 1 and about 4, *e* is between about 0 and about 1, *x* is between about 0 and about 3, *y* is between about 14 and about 18, *z* is between about 0 and about 2, and d+*x*+*y*+*z* is between about 15 and about 22, and a+b+c+d+e+x+y+z = 100.

9. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim [1] 7 wherein step (c) comprises selecting said amorphous alloy composition as $Fe_aCo_bNi_cM_dCu_eSi_xB_yZ_z$, wherein a, b, c, d, e, x, y and z are in at%, M is at least one element from the group consisting of Mo, Nb. and Ta, and Z is at least one element from the group consisting of C, P and Ge, and wherein *a* is between about 20 and about 30, *b* is less than or equal to about 4, *c* is between about 45 and about 60, *d* is between about 1 and about 3, *e* is between about 0 and about 1, *x* is between about 0 and about 3, *y* is between about 14 and about 18, *z* is between about 0 and about 2, d+x+y+z is between about 15 and about 20, and a+b+c+d+e+x+y+z = 100.

10. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim [1] 7 wherein step (c) comprises selecting said amorphous alloy composition from the group consisting of $Fe_{33}Co_2Ni_{43}Mo_2B_{20}$, $Fe_{35}Ni_{43}Mo_4B_{18}$, $Fe_{36}Co_2Ni_{44}Mo_2B_{16}$, $Fe_{36}Ni_{46}Mo_2B_{16}$, $Fe_{40}Ni_{38}Cu_1Mo_3B_{18}$, $Fe_{40}Ni_{38}Mo_4B_{18}$, $Fe_{40}Ni_{40}Mo_4B_{16}$, $Fe_{40}Ni_{38}Nb_4B_{18}$, $Fe_{40}Ni_{40}Mo_2Nb_2B_{16}$, $Fe_{41}Ni_{41}Mo_2B_{16}$, and $Fe_{45}Ni_{33}Mo_4B_{18}$, wherein the subscripts are in at% and up to 1.5 at% of B can be replaced by C.

11. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim [1] 7 wherein step (c) comprises selecting said amorphous alloy composition from the group consisting of

$Fe_{30}Ni_{52}Mo_2B_{16}$, $Fe_{30}Ni_{52}Nb_1Mo_1B_{16}$, $Fe_{29}Ni_{52}Nb_1Mo_1Cu_1B_{16}$, $Fe_{28}Ni_{54}Mo_2B_{16}$, $Fe_{28}Ni_{54}Nb_1Mo_1B_{16}$, $Fe_{26}Ni_{56}Mo_2B_{16}$, $Fe_{26}Ni_{54}Co_2Mo_2B_{16}$, $Fe_{24}Ni_{56}Co_2Mo_2B_{16}$, wherein the subscripts are in at% and up to 1.5 at% of B can be replaced by C.

12-16. (cancelled).

17. (currently amended) A method of making a marker for use in magnetomechanical electronic article surveillance system, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing at least one unannealed amorphous alloy article having an alloy composition and a longitudinal axis;

(b) disposing said at least one unannealed amorphous alloy article in a zone of elevated temperature while subjecting said at least one amorphous alloy article to a tensile force along said longitudinal axis to produce at least one annealed article;

(c) selecting said alloy composition to comprise at least iron and nickel and at least one element from the group consisting of Groups Vb and VIb of the periodic table so that said at least one annealed article has an induced magnetic easy plane perpendicular to said longitudinal axis due to said tensile stress;

(d) placing said at least one annealed article adjacent a magnetized ferromagnetic bias element which produces a bias magnetic field; and

(e) encapsulating said at least one annealed article and said bias element in a housing;

the method further ~~:~~

~~A method as claimed in claim 13~~ comprising applying a magnetic field to said at least one amorphous alloy article in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis during step (b).

18. (original) A method as claimed in claim 17 wherein said at least one amorphous alloy article has an article plane and comprising applying said magnetic field with a magnitude of at least 2 kOe and a significant component perpendicular to the article plane.

19. (cancelled).

20. (currently amended) A method <u>of making a marker for use in magnetomechanical electronic article surveillance system, comprising the steps of:</u>

<u>(a) providing at least one unannealed amorphous alloy article having an alloy composition and a longitudinal axis;</u>

<u>(b) disposing said at least one unannealed amorphous alloy article in a zone of elevated temperature while subjecting said at least one amorphous alloy article to a tensile force along said longitudinal axis to produce at least one annealed article;</u>

<u>(c) selecting said alloy composition to comprise at least iron and nickel and at least one element from the group consisting of V, Nb, Ta, Cr, Mo, and W so that said at least one annealed article has an induced magnetic easy plane perpendicular to said longitudinal axis due to said tensile stress;</u>

(d) placing said at least one annealed article adjacent a magnetized ferromagnetic bias element which produces a bias magnetic field; and

(e) encapsulating said at least one annealed article and said bias element in a housing [A method as claimed in claim 13] wherein step (c) comprises selecting said amorphous alloy composition as $Fe_aCo_bNi_cM_dCu_eSi_xB_yZ_z$, wherein a, b, c, d, e, x, y and z are in at%, M is at least one element from the group consisting of Mo, Nb, Ta, Cr and V, and Z is at least one element from the group consisting of C, P and Ge, and wherein *a* is between about 20 and about 50, *b* is less than or equal to about 4, *c* is between about 30 and about 60, *d* is between about 1 and about 5, *e* is between about 0 and about 2, *x* is between about 0 and about 4, *y* is between about 10 and about 20, *z* is between about 0 and about 3, and d+x+y+z is between about 14 and about 25, and a+b+c+d+e+x+y+z = 100.

21. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim [13] 20 wherein step (c) comprises selecting said amorphous alloy composition as $Fe_aCo_bNi_cM_dCu_eSi_xB_yZ_z$, wherein a, b, c, d, e, x, y and z are in at%, wherein M is at least one element from the group consisting of Mo, Nb, and Ta, and Z is at least one element from the group consisting of C, P and Ge, and wherein *a* is between about 30 and about 45, *b* is less than or equal to about 3, *c* is between about 30 and about 55, *d* is between about 1 and about 4, *e* is between about 0 and about 1, *x* is between about 0 and about 3, *y* is between about 14 and about 18, *z* is between about 0 and about 2, and d+*x*+*y*+*z* is between about 15 and about 22, and a+b+c+d+e+x+y+z = 100.

22. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim [13] 20 wherein step (c) comprises selecting said amorphous alloy composition as $Fe_aCo_bNi_cM_dCu_eSi_xB_yZ_z$, wherein a, b, c, d, e, x, y and z are in at%, M is at least one element from the group consisting of Mo, Nb. and Ta, and Z is at least one element from the group consisting of C, P and Ge, and wherein *a* is between about 20 and about 30, *b* is less than or equal to about 4, *c* is between about 45 and about 60, *d* is between about 1 and about 3, *e* is between about 0 and about 1, *x* is between about 0 and about 3, *y* is between about 14 and about 18, *z* is between about 0 and about 2, d+x+y+z is between about 15 and about 20, and a+b+c+d+e+x+y+z = 100.

23. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim [13] 20 wherein step (c) comprises selecting said amorphous alloy composition from the group consisting of $Fe_{33}Co_2Ni_{43}Mo_2B_{20}$, $Fe_{35}Ni_{43}Mo_4B_{18}$, $Fe_{36}Co_2Ni_{44}Mo_2B_{16}$, $Fe_{36}Ni_{46}Mo_2B_{16}$, $Fe_{40}Ni_{38}Cu_1Mo_3B_{18}$, $Fe_{40}Ni_{38}Mo_4B_{18}$, $Fe_{40}Ni_{40}Mo_4B_{16}$, $Fe_{40}Ni_{38}Nb_4B_{18}$, $Fe_{40}Ni_{40}Mo_2Nb_2B_{16}$, $Fe_{41}Ni_{41}Mo_2B_{16}$, and $Fe_{45}Ni_{33}Mo_4B_{18}$, wherein the subscripts are in at% and up to 1.5 at% of B can be replaced by C.

24. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim [13] 20 wherein step (c) comprises selecting said amorphous alloy composition from the group consisting of $Fe_{30}Ni_{52}Mo_2B_{16}$, $Fe_{30}Ni_{52}Nb_1Mo_1B_{16}$, $Fe_{29}Ni_{52}Nb_1Mo_1Cu_1B_{16}$, $Fe_{28}Ni_{54}Mo_2B_{16}$, $Fe_{28}Ni_{54}Nb_1Mo_1B_{16}$, $Fe_{26}Ni_{56}Mo_2B_{16}$, $Fe_{26}Ni_{54}Co_2Mo_2B_{16}$, $Fe_{24}Ni_{56}Co_2Mo_2B_{16}$, wherein the subscripts are in at% and up to 1.5 at% of B can be replaced by C.

25. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim [13] 20 wherein (a) comprises providing an unannealed amorphous alloy ribbon as said at least one

unannealed amorphous alloy article, having a width between about 1 mm and about 14 mm and a thickness between about 15 μm and about 40 μm and wherein step (c) comprises selecting said alloy composition such that said at least one annealed article has a ductility allowing said at least one annealed article to be cut into discrete elongated strips.

26-50. (currently cancelled).